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Claims

1. A carton for containing a group of similar articles, such as bottles, the carton comprising a top panel, bottom panel, opposing side walls and opposing end walls, wherein the carton is constructed by combining a pair of opposing complementary U-shaped structures, one of the U-shaped structures comprising a bottom panel and opposing end walls and the other of the U-shaped structures comprising a top panel and opposing side walls.
2. A carton according to claim 1 wherein the top panel is disposed at an elevation below an upper extremity of either end wall of the carton and/or of either side wall of the carton.
3. A carton according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the one U-shaped structure comprises flaps which provide support to the side walls of the other U-shaped structure and additionally a surface to which the side walls of the other U-shaped structure can be secured.
4. A carton according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the top panel of the carton comprises apertures for receiving the articles or portions thereof, wherein each aperture has a frangible connection with at least one other aperture to facilitate removal of the articles.
5. A carton according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising at least one reinforced handle aperture being struck from one of said side and end walls of the carton.
6. A carton according to claim 4 wherein the frangible connection is arranged such that upon removal of the articles, the carton retains sufficient structural integrity to be re-used for returning empty articles.
7. A two part blank for forming a carton for containing a group of similar articles, such as bottles, the blank comprising first and second parts, the first part comprising a bottom

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panel and opposing end walls to form a first U-shaped structure, the second part comprising a top panel and opposing side walls to form a second U-shaped structure that is complementary to the first U-shaped structure, the first and second U-shaped structures are disposed in an opposed relationship when the carton is in a setup condition.

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8. A blank according to claim 7 wherein the first part comprises flaps for providing support to the side walls of the second part and additionally a surface to which the side walls of the second part can be secured.

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9. A blank according to claim 7 or 8 wherein the top panel of the second part is at an elevation below an upper extremity of the end walls of the first part when the carton is in a set-up condition.

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10. A blank according to any one of claims 7 to 9 wherein the top panel of the second part comprises apertures for receiving the articles or portions thereof, wherein each aperture has a frangible connection with at least one other aperture to facilitate removal of the articles.

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11. A blank to form a carton according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

12. A carton comprising opposed side walls, opposed end walls and top and bottom panels, wherein a plane of the top panel is lower than an upper edge of either end wall and wherein the carton further comprises handle apertures struck from said end walls.

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